

One of the important functions of my office is to assist constituents in their efforts to obtain federal grant funding for legitimate, qualified projects here in Alabama's First Congressional District. As most know, billions of dollars are allocated by the federal government every year to thousands of different projects in the United States. However, it is not always easy to identify sources of funding or even know if your project qualifies for federal support.

Traditionally, there have been two ways federal funding allocated by the Congress of the United States can be made available to qualified entities. These are through competitive or formulaic grants, and also through direct, or line-item, appropriations. By far, grants provide the most numerous source of funding.

In 2002, the federal government released its newest online search resource for federal opportunities, Grants.gov. You can visit their website, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), for information on over 1,000 available federal programs. My office can also work with you to assist in identifying potential grant sources.

Generally speaking, a grant requires submission of a detailed proposal to a federal agency, and funds are awarded through a competitive review process conducted within the federal agency that manages the overall program. For example, if Anytown, USA, applied for a grant for a new fire truck, the Department of Homeland Security would review all applications in a specific grant program and award funding to those judged most worthy of the support.

A congressional letter of support to accompany the grant application may be useful in some cases. I am happy to offer this service to all deserving projects.

If you would like more information on the grant process, *please contact Mrs. Brandy Jackson in my Mobile district office at 251-690-2811 or 1-800-288-8721 or feel free to e-mail her at [brandy.jackson@mail.house.gov](mailto:brandy.jackson@mail.house.gov)*

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